Rt. 12, Frederick, Md. 21701
7/3/76

Mr. George Herman
CBS News
2020 M St. NW
Wash, D.C. 20036

Dear George,

Thanks for taking the time to write. Abd to your staffer who got transcripts here earlier than your letter by a day.

Your are not alone in having trouble keeping the details in your head. We all do. Now when I manage to store a new fact I suspect it pushes one out to make space.

Wish I had time to tell you what happened between Schweiker and me last October. He recognized he was pursuing four theories he took from my work. We discussed what I said could and could not work; what could and could not get him support and why. He could have done an historic job. Despite his reputation he lacked the courage or something else meant more. Apparently the shot at the v.p. Ford leaked as soon as Schweiker started making loud noises.

So more people have doubt? Without the resolutoon of those doubts what good does it do? Is it good for the country or its ailing institutions? I think the opposite.

It is possible he kidded himself into thinking a back-door approach might work but I think he is too Hill-wise to have.

He did a job for Ford, the one major beneficiary of anything that would keep the Warren Report from coming apart officially. It has never been together since my first book. May be hard to see with all the attention he's had but it is true.

If the spooks are as good at their intelligence jobs as they were at manipulating the Congress, we are in godd shape internationally. Fascinating story, as is how they can get away with it when they had their bare faces hanging out. Maybe you'll come up so do and I'll explain it. Maybe other things that may interest you.

There will be what I think should be a major story in one of my law suits soon. I expect one, perhaps two, soon. I have kept plugging away with FOIA. You may remember the first suit that did not get reported but laid out what Kheindienst really is and was. I was a major part of the good revision of the law. And I've turned around the concerted efforts to rewrite the new law through me and prejudice against me. The DJ was actually trying their cases this way. But the major beneficiaries of the law until recently reported nothing about it and now reports selectively.

By all means call any time you want. I spend much time informing reporters. It is an essential part of the job I've undertaken. One will spend most of Tuesday here. His people don't have the hangups on this subject others do, I hope! Where reporter friends do not have desk restrictions we've been able to do thing! That get killed in Washington when syndicated. Thus you don't know. Between that and court I've been fairly successful in forcing the FBI and DJ around, especially on the King assassination.

I'm surprised that Fred, who is a sharp reporter, did not spot the opening major flaw in the Schweiker report, especially because of Fred's law training. And more because he knows how the executive agencies have used him on this story in the past. Several times. After the first I called the shots for him - in advance of his stories. He does not like

me for it. Not uncommon. There are, in fact, key expressions throughout the Schweiker report any sharp reporter should spot. I guess that where there are no desk or policy problems there are the regular time pressures that preclude a careful reading. I read very slowly now, work for word. I miss less.

I think Fred spoke his own belief rather than a good reporter's question when he asked why don't we just let it die. It won't die and until it is purged the country cannot heal.

Crile is a stranger to me. There was a time when Taylor Brnach seemed interested in - really excited about doing something with my work. Then he and Crile went off with and after the Watergating Cubans, which in the eand will mean if it has not already meant nothing. Branch then became antagonistic, I still don't know why. I'm familiar with Crile's atypical long editorial pieces in the Post. Normally these are cued in to promoting a book. Those pieces didn't even say he was writing one. And I know the ~~field~~ field as well as anyone. From this I tell you there is nothing in those pieces that in any way hurts the CIA. It is what they have been leaking about themselves. What has actually become a successful defense.

All of this may seem farout. You'll come to see it is already true.

Sure, I was the first to see the Cuban angle. But I also laid a factual basis for it. And I did not let it become a diversion in my work.

There are others no less legitimate, some more. Schweiker spotted them in my work, which is why he called me in. It was a painful day but not with him. He impressed me much. I saw him between putting my most recent book to bed and the hospital putting me there. I could barely walk and then only in agony. But Schweiker impressed me so much, I took his promises of continuing contact on an urgent basis so literally I took a private room I can't afford in the hospital. And from last October to now have not seen him.

I try to avoid dry wells. To a pretty fair degree I've been successful once I learned. They learning was hard and painful because of my belief in the traditional role of the press. At 63 I can be quite flexible. I do shift rapidly from what has little prospect to what promises more opportunity. As I evaluate productivity I've been productive. "They" can and do make me waste time but in the end that will have some value to the country, too. If court records and what they lead to can, as I believe.

I'm two-thirds of the way through the draft of a new book on the King assassination. My first lead to the degree of reopening there has been. I'm delayed on this one by "them." I have them in court and I have obtained new evidence. In time it will out. Not as fast as it should but in time. You'll see. Then I'll return to other JFK work I laid aside despite the commercial promise all of a sudden because it was apparent more than a year ago that the nuts, self- seekers and perhaps more dubious characters would do a job for the spooks and ~~seen~~ spin all Congressional wheels. I've new heavy stuff that totally destroys the official "solution." This means it is almost impossible if not entirely impossible to get responsible use. And I'm now into the CIA with a reasonably firm bite. I have to wind this up and get a 3,500 work long series of requests and appeals off to them in this morning's mail. It, too, will lead to a constructive end and some sensational exposures. I've a Strngelovianx tale or two from them already.

So don't be afraid to call if I can be of help. It is as much my responsibility help reporters as it is the responsibility of reporters to report. To the degree y can, anyway. And if you can stand a mixture of Byzantium and Walden, we are seven utes only from the Holiday Inn and Police Barracks you pass on the way to Camp David Harrisburg or Gettysburg. An hour from your studio, a little less from out in hwest.

Again thanks, and best regards, from a young spirit if an aging body. (You g yourself old! What's this younger generation coming to?

Harold